

### ***Highlights Strong Record on Behalf of Hispanic Families***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Rep. Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today joined millions of Americans in celebrating the 200-year anniversary of Mexico's freedom from Spain. To commemorate this important occasion, Rep. Sanchez proudly co-sponsored House Resolution 1604, honoring the bicentennial anniversary of Mexico's independence and recognizing the important contributions of Mexican-Americans to life in the United States.

“As a Latina, I am proud to join the rest of the country in celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Mexican-Americans,” said Rep. Sanchez. “Hispanics, like other Americans, recognize the importance of freedom and opportunity, and cherish the American values of faith, family, and love of country. On this day, we are reminded that all people – regardless of their race or ethnic identity – are worthy of respect and self-determination.”

Latinos are the fastest-growing minority group in the United States with 47 million Hispanics in the United States – 63 percent of which are of Mexican descent. Hispanics have the largest minority-owned business community, and Latino workers will continue to drive the growth of the labor force. Rep. Sanchez recognizes this entrepreneurial energy as vital to the Latino community and the American economy.

In order to help Hispanics and other American families recover from the effects of the recession, Rep. Sanchez supported the American Recovery and Recovery Act and other job-creating measures. These initiatives have focused on strengthening small businesses, providing billions of dollars in tax relief for small firms to hire and expand and greater access to SBA-backed loans. These provisions will help an estimated 1.6 million Hispanic-owned small businesses across the country.

To make college affordable for Latino students, the Democratic-led Congress has enacted the Student and Fiscal Responsibility Act to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,550 this year and make student loan repayments more affordable. This will strengthen Hispanic-serving institutions so that students can stay in school, graduate, and succeed in our global economy, while ending wasteful subsidies to banks through federal student loan programs.

Finally, to help make quality, affordable care available to Hispanics and other Americans, Rep. Sanchez supported the landmark health care law. In addition to expanding access to preventive care, fighting health disparities, and strengthening the focus on minority health, the new law will make about 9 million additional Latinos eligible for health coverage. It will also make health insurance affordable for middle class and small businesses by reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs.